



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

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TO: Early Intervention Providers and Agency Representatives

FROM: Ron Benham, Acting Director, Bureau of Family Health & Nutrition
Rob Seymour, Assistant Division Director for Administration and Finance
Patti Fougere, Assistant Director, Early Childhood Programs

DATE: December 22, 2008

RE: Use of Therapy Assistants in Massachusetts Early Intervention

The Department of Public Health has been working with MassHealth and private insurers to bill for services provided by Therapy Assistants providing direct services within certified Massachusetts Early Intervention Programs.

Effective February 1, 2009 early intervention services may be provided by qualified personnel who held current licensure from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Allied Health Professions as an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA); Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA); or from the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Speech Language Pathology/Audiology as Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA).

In order to track services provided by Therapy Assistants, DPH will update the professional discipline codes to include the following:

- SA - Speech Language Pathology Assistant
- PA - Physical Therapy Assistant
- OA - Occupational Therapy Assistant

Additional information regarding billing will be forthcoming from Jean Shimer when it is available.

MassHealth will not be covering services rendered by Speech Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs). Services delivered to MassHealth clients by SLPAs would be billed to DPH.

Please refer to the attached documents and change in the current Early Intervention Operational Standards for further information regarding the roles and responsibilities of Therapy Assistants providing services within the Massachusetts Early Intervention system.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Rob Seymour at 617-6245436 or Patti Fougere at 617-624-5975.